

# TEXAS HISTORIC BRIDGES

FALL 2015



## PROJECT MISSION STATEMENT:

Identify ways to retain historic truss bridges as viable assets open to vehicular traffic or repurposed for new uses.

## DATES:

Texas Association of County Engineers and Road Administrators (TACERA) **Oct. 21**

Historic Truss Bridges Webinar, hosted by THC **Nov. 6**

## STAY CONNECTED!

Want to get the latest news and announcements?

Email TxDOT's environmental consultant **Maryellen Russo** to start receiving project updates to your inbox!

## LATEST UPDATES

Let us show you what can be done with historic truss bridges by clicking [here!](#)



## PROJECT OVERVIEW

TxDOT is in a multi-year process to develop a management plan for historic metal truss bridges still in vehicular use. Ongoing communication with stakeholders, interested parties, and the public are a key part of the process. Ultimately, the management plan will provide predictable outcomes for the state's truss bridges.

## CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION DURING A FREE WEBINAR ON TRUSS BRIDGES

TxDOT owns only 20 percent of truss bridges that carry vehicles, with the remaining 80 percent of these bridges owned by cities and counties. While TxDOT is responsible for inspecting all bridges in the state that carry vehicles, we don't own the majority of the historic truss bridges in Texas.

With more than 120 still in service around the state, the question remains: **"What can we do with my historic truss bridge?"**

"Public participation at the open houses provided valuable feedback on potential outcomes for these cherished historic resources," said Bruce Jensen, Director of Cultural Resources Management in TxDOT's Environmental Division. "The process of developing a management plan is complex and involves many players, considerations and questions about funding. These free webinars are one more step in the information sharing and input gathering process."

TxDOT, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and Historic Bridge Foundation (HBF) will host a free webinar to address concerns, to educate on how to navigate the process and to help you consider what your options are.

**Register today by clicking [here!](#)**

**WHAT: FREE Webinar**

**WHEN: Friday, Nov. 6  
10 a.m.**

**Register by clicking  
[HERE!](#)**

### TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Hear the THC's guidance on how to work with historic truss bridges.

### TxDOT

Hear how TxDOT can help with your historic truss bridge.

### HISTORIC BRIDGE FOUNDATION

Learn more about what the Historic Bridge Foundation can do for you.

## YOU SPOKE AND WE HEARD YOU!

From our online survey:

*“Get the people involved. The difference between the possible and the impossible is the measure of man’s will!”*

*“Keep up the good work.”*

*“We have four bridges on the endangered list and need to work out a viable plan for them.”*

### What types of problems face your truss bridge?

Funding

69%

Deferred maintenance

51%

Road and highway widening

40%

Oversized trucks/traffic (load posted)

33%

Accidents/safety

29%

Communication barriers

27%

Conditions at bridge (lead-based paint, graffiti, etc.)

27%

## ASK A BRIDGE EXPERT...

**Q.** Our historic bridge was flooded back in May. I don’t think anything is wrong with it, though. What should I do?



**A.** While your bridge may appear to survive floods just fine, debris such as tree roots, trash, or dirt may be caught underneath the bridge or within the connections on the bridge. Clean the debris off the bridge, and use a high pressure water spray to clean the lower truss members, connections, and bearings. Soil caught in that area does not dry and leads to corrosion of the connections.

**Q.** My bridge needs replacement! The paint is peeling and it looks awful.

**A.** Paint is a protective cover for metal bridges, preventing the bridge from weathering and rusting. Although it looks bad, peeling paint is not an indication that a bridge needs replacement. Keep in mind that the bridge may have lead-based paint when planning a project to clean and repaint a historic bridge. For more information on lead paint, [click here](#).



**Q.** My municipal water supply wants to use our truss bridge to hang a water pipe to cross the river. Should I allow them to do that?

**A.** No. Hanging utility pipes adds to the load of a metal truss bridge and can impact its load rating.



If you have any questions about a truss bridge in your community, please feel free to email

**Rebekah Dobrasko**.

## SUCCESS STORIES!

Sometimes a bridge can be successfully rehabbed for ongoing vehicular service or adapted for a new use. The **Historic Labatt Bridge**, was successfully moved to a new location, due to the collaborative efforts of a handful of entities including TxDOT, Wilson County and the City of Floresville. The bridge remains useful today. Learn details of the effort, plus photos illustrating the relocation project that breathed new life into this bridge by going to this [link](#).



*Historic Labatt Bridge in Wilson County*

**Details of the bridge planning process (Historic Bridge Manual), a map of Historic Bridges in vehicular service, and useful guides to aid local bridge owners in their care of historic truss bridges (Toolkits) are all posted [here](#).**